

PATENT
Docket No. 00-8015
Application Serial No. 09/656,868

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action¹ of July 27, 2004. Claims 1-37 were presented for examination and all claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kung, U.S. Patent 5,241,594, (hereinafter "Kung"). No claims are hereby canceled or added. Thus, claims 1-37 are pending. Claims 1, 13, 14 and 26 are independent claims. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for the following reasons.

Applicant's amended claims are not disclosed or suggested by Kung. Applicant's amended claim 1, for example, recites: "A method for providing secure communication of commands from a client to a plurality of hosts via a network server, comprising: utilizing authentication information and credentials cache information within the network server to facilitate the secure communication, wherein the network server does not store either the authentication information or the credentials cache information; receiving at least one command from the client; initiating one or more remote execution processes for processing the at least one command; transmitting the at least one command to one or more of the hosts via the one or more remote execution processes; obtaining, from the one or more remote execution processes, data associated with the one or more hosts executing the at least one command; formatting the data; and sending the formatted data to the client" (emphasis added). Kung does not disclose or suggest this combination of claim elements. For example, Kung does not disclose at least: "utilizing authentication information and credentials cache information within the network server

¹ The Office Action may contain a number of statements characterizing the cited references and/or the claims which Applicant may not expressly identify herein. Regardless of whether or not any such statement is identified herein, Applicants do not automatically subscribe to, or acquiesce in, any such statement.

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to facilitate the secure communication, wherein the network server does not store either the authentication information or the credentials cache information”, as claimed (emphasis added).

By comparison, Kung discloses apparatus and methods for authenticating users in a distributed networked computing system (Abstract). Two embodiments are disclosed: a central server embodiment and a distributed system embodiment (Abstract). It is clear that Applicant’s claimed subject matter includes a network server. If any portion of Kung may arguably be relevant to Applicant’s claims, it would be Kung’s central server embodiment portion. In Kung’s central server embodiment a central server includes a file where ID’s and encrypted passwords are stored (Abstract). Therein, all IDs and encrypted passwords are stored on a single computer (the server) that controls access to the entire distributed system. Once access is granted to a particular user, non-encrypted passwords are transmitted to the remote computers from the server, since the server controls the entire system (Abstract). This is further discussed in column 2, lines 16-21; column 2, lines 60-67; column 4, lines 24-25; column 4, lines 41-42 and elsewhere in Kung. Thus, it is clear that Kung stores its password and user ID information in its central server, precisely the opposite of what Applicant discloses and claims. Although Applicant’s server utilizes authentication information and credentials cache information, “the network server does not store” that information, as claimed.

Applicant’s amendment is clearly supported by the application as originally filed. No new matter is added. “Authentication information” and “credentials cache information”, or other terms that may be used synonymously for either type of information, or other terms that may be used to describe components of either type of information, are discussed throughout Applicant’s specification. In Applicant’s specification, for example, “credentials cache information” is

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discussed at least at: page 19, line 18; page 20, line 1; page 22, line 13; page 24, line 17; page 25, line 8; and “authenticating information” is discussed at least at page 25, line 11. These terms are defined in the specification, and may be generally comparable with the ID’s and passwords of Kung.

It is clear that “authenticating information” and “credentials cache information” are not stored in Applicant’s network server 700 (see Figs. 4 or 6A). For example, first referring to Applicant’s specification with respect to Fig. 4:

The web server 720 encrypts the encoded credentials cache information and sends the data to the web browser 620, as well as a command form. Once the network server 700 sends the data to the client 600, all transient processes that handled the data exit and terminate and consequently, all authenticating information about client 600 is erased or removed. In order for client 600 to continue with the transaction, client 600 will have to refresh the memory of the server 720 and continue the second phase of the authentication process. Because there is no information relating to the transactions residing on the network server 700 during the time period in between transactions, if an unauthorized individual manages to improperly access the network server 700, as already explained above, any information obtained would be of limited value and the integrity of the system would be retained. (specification, page 25 lines 8-17, emphasis added).

Since all authenticating information is erased or removed, it is clear that authenticating information is not stored in Applicant’s server. Furthermore, on page 24, lines 16-18, the specification states: “The CGI Service Interface 740 then sends the encoded credentials cache information and a command form to web server 720, as indicated by arrow 760, destroys the credentials cache 830, then exits” (emphasis added). If the credentials cache is destroyed, then any information contained therein is likewise destroyed, wherefore it cannot be stored in the server.

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Next, with respect to Fig. 6A, software processes CGI Service Interface 1000 and credentials cache 1080 are both included in Network Server 700 as shown. At the end of the discussion in the specification about the subject of issuing a command, referring to Figs. 6A/B and their related flowcharts Figs. 7A-7E, the following is stated: "CGI Service Interface 1000 destroys credentials cache 1080 and, then exits" (specification, page 30, line 13). Again, if the credentials cache is destroyed, any information contained therein is likewise destroyed. Since the credentials cache was located in Applicant's server, since no credential cache information remains in a credentials cache which was destroyed, then there is no such information remaining or being stored in Applicant's server. Accordingly, since Kung requires storage of its passwords and ID in its central server, Applicant's claims distinguish over the Kung reference.

MPEP § 2131 indicates that to anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim. In this instance, Kung does not teach every element of claim 1 since it does not teach, at least, "utilizing authentication information and credentials cache information within the network server to facilitate the secure communication, wherein the network server does not store either the authentication information or the credentials cache information", as claimed. Accordingly the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn and the claim allowed. Claims 2-12 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are allowable, at least for reasons based on their dependency.

Independent claims 13 and 14 likewise recite, *inter alia*: "utilizing authentication information and credentials cache information within the network server to facilitate the secure communication, wherein the network server does not store either the authentication information or the credentials cache information", as claimed and are allowable for the same reasons as given

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above. Dependent claims 15-25 depend directly or indirectly from claim 14 and are allowable, at least for reasons based on their dependency.

Independent claim 26 recites, *inter alia*: "A network server which utilizes, but does not store authentication information and credentials cache information to facilitate secure communication...", and is allowable for the same reasons as given above. Dependent claims 27-37 depend directly or indirectly from claim 26 and are allowable, at least for reasons based on their dependency.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 07-2347 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number provided below if he feels that a telephone conversation may serve to advance the prosecution of this application.

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